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*The Indian navy says it has sunk a pirate vessel which one of its warships encountered north of the Somali coast. India's navy is patrolling the waters as part of the international effort to try to deter attacks by pirates on commercial shipping. Damian Grammaticas has more:*

The Indian navy is describing the boat it has sunk as a **pirate mother ship**. It says the Indian naval ship INS Tabar was on patrol in the Gulf of Aden late on Tuesday evening when it **encountered** what it believed was a **pirate** ship with two speedboats **in tow**.

The Indian navy demanded the ship stop for investigation. The navy says the pirates **on board** were armed with guns and **rocket propelled grenade launchers**, they threatened **to blow up** the Indian warship and then fired on it. The Indians say they responded.

There was an explosion on the **pirate** vessel which sank. Some pirates tried to escape on two speedboats. The Indians **gave chase** and found one speedboat **abandoned**. The second **vanished** into the night.

Damian Grammaticas, BBC News, Delhi

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>pirate</b>	a robber at sea
<b>mother ship</b>	a ship that provides services and supplies for a number of other ships; a base
<b>encountered</b>	came close to
<b>in tow</b>	following/accompanying it (by being pulled along using a chain or rope)
<b>on board</b>	on the ship
<b>rocket propelled grenade launchers</b>	hand-held, shoulder-launched anti-tank or anti-personnel weapons capable of firing a rocket that has an explosive warhead
<b>to blow up</b>	to destroy by explosion
<b>gave chase</b>	followed (in an attempt to catch)
<b>abandoned</b>	left behind
<b>vanished</b>	escaped, disappeared

**More on this story:** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7736885.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7736885.stm)

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/11/081119\\_india\\_somali\\_pirates.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/11/081119_india_somali_pirates.shtml)